

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



Interim Executive Officer's Report  
May 12, 2016

**Contents**

Staff Activities .....	2
A. Basin Planning Unit .....	2
B. Underground Storage Tank/Cleanup Unit .....	3
C. Total Maximum Daily Load Unit.....	4
D. NPDES Unit.....	5
E. Non-Chapter 15, Chapter 15 Unit .....	7
F. Administrative Unit.....	8
Issues of Regional Significance.....	9
A. New River Pollution from Mexico .....	9
B. Salton Sea.....	9
C. Environmental Justice .....	10
D. PG&E's Topock Compressor Station Cleanup .....	10
Personnel and Administration .....	11
Other Issues of Importance .....	12
Regional Water Board Action Items.....	13

## Staff Activities

### A. Basin Planning Unit

Unit Chief: Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist, P.G.

The priority activities for the Unit are to continue working on the 2014 Triennial Review priority issues, the Salt Nutrients Management Plan for the Coachella Valley, and special SWAMP studies. Following the March 10, 2016 Board meeting in Yucca Valley, Unit staff has focused its activities on:

1. Compiling the administrative record for the amendment that revised the Septic Tank Discharge Prohibition for the Town of Yucca Valley, which was adopted March 10, 2016. The Administrative Record will be sent to the State Water Board for review and approval of the Basin Plan amendment; [*Theresa Kimsey, ES*]
2. Coordinating and getting ready for the second Regional Board workshop for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), which was held on March 28, 2016 at the Board's office; [*Cathy Sanford, P.G; Joan Stormo, P.G, CHG; Abdi Haile, P.G.*]
3. Attending a State Water Board sponsored Salt Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) symposium, which was held in Sacramento on March 3 and 4, 2016 [*Cathy Sanford, PG*];
4. Attending the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Workshop on the status of the Salton Sea Management Program, which was held in Sacramento on April 19, 2016 [*Jeff Geraci, ES*]; and
5. Coordinating the Spring 2016 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) sediment and surface water sampling event. [*Jeff Geraci, ES*]

**Triennial Review**—Unit staff has completed the draft staff report regarding beneficial uses of the Imperial County wetlands, which is one of the Triennial Review priority issues. Staff also continues working on the other Triennial Review priority issues: updating the Basin Plan's information on the Salton Sea, investigating the water quality threat of septic systems in La Quinta Cove, continuing the fish tissue study, and performing the bioassessment study of non-perennial and intermittent surface waters. A draft report on the bioassessment study should be ready at the end of April or early May. A draft report on the fish tissue study is expected to be ready in August 2016. [*Joan Stormo, P.G.*]

**Coachella Valley SNMP**—Unit staff are preparing the staff report for the next SNMP workshop, which is scheduled for June 1, 2016.

Jose L. Angel, Interim Executive Officer, met Jim Barrett (Coachella Valley Water District General Manager), Brian Macy (Indio Water Authority General Manager), and Mark Krause (Desert Water Agency General Manager) on April 7, 2016, to hear their perspectives on the SNMP, to change the tone of the discussions between them and office staff, and to discuss ways to address policy and water quality concerns with their current proposed SNMP. He has scheduled a follow up meeting with them for May 18, 2016. He has also contacted the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water to ask for their participation at the next workshop so they can provide their perspective on the drinking water standards for Total Dissolved Solids (i.e., the Secondary MCLs). [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program**—Board staff completed its spring sampling in April 2016. Sediment and water samples were collected from 5 sites at the Salton Sea and were tested for selenium and pesticides. Sediment and water samples were collected for toxicity identification and evaluation, in an effort to determine sources of toxicity in the Salton Sea. Finally, three constructed wetlands in Imperial Valley were sampled for the purpose of evaluating their performance, and for assessing the potential for bioaccumulation based on concentrations of selenium and organics, including legacy pesticides. [Jeff Geraci, ES]

## B. Underground Storage Tank/Cleanup Unit

Unit Chief: John Carmona, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

**USEPA Brownfields Program**—Unit staff continues to work with USEPA to identify leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) at sites that can be assessed by USEPA for free under the Program. [Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE]

**USEPA Brownfields Workshop “Back in Business: Resources for Redevelopment and Land Recycling.”** Staff attended the workshops held on April 12 and April 13. [Maria Davydova, ES; Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE; and John Carmona, Senior WRCE, P.E.]

**Department of Defense (DOD) Program**—Board staff has already exceeded target goals for the DOD Program, see table below. [Phan Le, WRCE]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	2	3	150%

The Program has been reassigned to Robert Perdue, Supervising EG.

**Site Cleanup Program**—Board staff are working towards meeting program target goals, see table below. [Rosalyn Fleming and Phan Le]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	2	2	100%
	No. of Sites Projected Closed	2		0%

**Underground Storage Tank Program**—Board staff are working towards meeting program target goals, see table below. [Rosalyn Fleming, Kola Olatunbosun, Phan Le]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	7	7	100%
	No. of Sites Closed	7	6	86%

**Low-Threat Closure Policy**—Unit staff continues to perform more extensive review of cases to identify and address impediments to case closure. [*Rosalyn Fleming, Kola Olatunbosun, and Phan Le, WRCEs*]

**UST Roundtable Meeting**—The office will be hosting the meeting on May 4, 2016.

**Environmental Justice**—Please refer to “Environmental Justice” Section of this report (p. 10).

### **C. Total Maximum Daily Load Unit**

Unit Chief: Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist, Ph.D.

TMDL staffs continue to implement four Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for agricultural discharges in Bard Unit, Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Palo Verde Valley and Mesa. Essentially, all agricultural areas in the region (99.7%) are now regulated by Conditional Waivers.

**Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—This Waiver expires in September 2017. Staff is proposing to replace the Waiver with General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). A draft on the proposed WDRs and supporting CEQA documents are currently being reviewed by the Board’s management team. Staff is also discussing the proposal with PVID about the Coalition that was formed by PVID to implement the Waiver. Further, staff is also consulting with USEPA about the proposed WDRs to ensure they address USEPA’s concerns about DDT and Toxaphene impairments in Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon.

On March 10, 2016, TMDL staff gave a presentation to the Regional Water Board about the proposal. Based on Board direction, staff is also making arrangements for a Public Workshop on the proposed WDRs for June 2016.

On March 29, 2016, Palo Verde Valley Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2015 to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. TMDL staff are reviewing the Report. [*Francisco Costa, Ph.D., ES*]

**Imperial Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**--In January 2016, Imperial Irrigation District submitted a draft quality assurance project plan (QAPP) and a draft Updated Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan (DWQIP)/Surface Water Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (SWMRP) for monitoring required by the Imperial Valley Conditional Waiver. Staff have reviewed the draft QAPP and draft Updated DWQIP/SWMRP and is recommending the Interim Executive Officer approve the submittals for implementation, provided the IID revises the submittals as requested by staff. [*Logan Raub, ES*]

**Coachella Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—On March 4, 2016, TMDL staff mailed a letter to approximately 300 Coachella Valley water account holders, potential Responsible Parties, notifying them of the need to take action to comply with the Conditional Waiver. Regrettably, the list of entities and people who received the letter listed entities and people who do not need to obtain coverage under the Waiver. Also, many of the recipients of the letter did not understand the letter because they do not speak English. Subsequently, on March 15, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer sent another letter in English and Spanish

explaining the requirement of the Waiver, how to comply with it, and who needs obtain coverage under the Waiver. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 11, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer met with Ben Olson, President of the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (Coalition); Ellen Trover from the Riverside County Farm Bureau; and Kristen Dickerson (Olson Engineering) to improve communication between staff, the Coalition, and farming community; prevent problems like the ones caused by the March 4, 2016 letter; work more collaboratively; and ensure the Waiver is implemented successfully. On April 18, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer met with Lorrie Cooper (Coalition Manager), Ben Olson, Steve Bigley from CVWD, and Ellen Trover to follow up on the March 11, 2016 meeting and formed a Management Committee to make policy recommendations regarding the Waiver. The Committee members are Steve Bigley, Ben Olson, Lorrie Cooper, Ellen Trover, and Mr. Angel. The Committee will be meeting quarterly and one of its tasks will be providing a biannual report on the implementation of the Waiver. During the meeting, Mr. Angel discussed lessons learned from the March 4 letter and ways to improve communication at all levels and work more collaborative with the farming community. He also informed the meeting participants that he is working with the State Water Board Office of Public Participation to scheduled two informational workshops (one in Spanish and one in English) as part of essential outreach and education that should take place before any additional enforcement takes place against people who need to obtain coverage under the Waiver but have not yet obtained such coverage. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 18, 2016 Coachella Valley Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2015 to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. TMDL staff is reviewing the Report. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., WRCE*]

**Bard Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—On March 10, 2016, Bard Unit Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2015 to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. TMDL staff is reviewing the Report. [*Francisco Costa, Ph.D., ES*]

**Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List**—TMDL staff developed and submitted a report for approval to the State Water Board and USEPA recommending the delisting of diazinon from the Region's 303(d) List for the Alamo and New Rivers. State Board and USEPA staff are reviewing the delisting recommendation. [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

**TMDL Implementation**—Unit staff is preparing information reports to update the Regional Water Board on the Coachella Stormwater Channel Bacteria TMDL and the Imperial Valley Sediment TMDLs. Staff plans to present these updates to the Regional Board at its June 30, 2016 meeting. [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

## **D. NPDES Unit**

Unit Chief, Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E., Ph.D.

**CVWD WRP#4 WWTP** – Regional Water Board staff conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 in Thermal on March 8, 2016. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the Facility NPDES Permit, to review the receiving water and monitoring locations, and to determine the accuracy and reliability of the Discharger's self-monitoring and reporting program.

The Discharger had made substantial improvements to allow easier access to the receiving water for sample collection (access to the Stormwater Channel during a storm event can be extremely hazardous). New headworks have also been installed at the Facility, with an improved odor control system now in operation. Following the inspection, Regional Water Board rated the Facility as “Satisfactory” based on the operations and processes inspected. The Facility’s NPDES permit will expire on May 31, 2017. [Anders Wistrom/Kai Dunn]

**City of Imperial WWTP**—Regional Water Board staff conducted a re-inspection of the City of Imperial (City) Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) on April 15, 2016. The purpose of the Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was to inspect new wastewater conveyance facilities including an upgraded lift-station equipped with an odor removal system and review progress on new headworks and sludge management facility improvements. The odor removal system is based on pure oxygen generation and injection into the main sewer conveyance line leading to the WWTP. The sludge management facility improvements have been completed and allow the Discharger to filter influent wastewaters and divert screened solids and Biochemical Oxygen Demand to the local landfill while extending the capacity of the existing biological treatment trains. The waste activated sludge (WAS) from the biological treatment is now pumped directly to mechanical dewatering, which has allowed the Discharger to abandon the old Imhoff tanks and sludge drying beds. Now, dewatered sludge is shipped directly to the landfill. The Facility’s NPDES permit will expire on September 30, 2020. [Anders Wistrom/Kai Dunn]

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum**—The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Form (Forum) was formed in 1973 by the seven states within the Colorado River Basin. The Forum is preparing the upcoming 2017 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity for the Colorado River. The Forum formed a committee to review its NPDES Permit Program Policies and determine if there is a need to update, revise and/or reorganize these policies. The committee has developed a salinity questionnaire/survey to be completed by NPDES permit writers in the seven states and USEPA Regions within the Colorado River Basin. Regional Water Board staff participated in survey in mid-April. The committee will review the findings of the survey and make recommendation to the Forum at the June 2016 meeting. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer, Ph.D., P.E.]

**CWA Water Quality Certifications**—The following table shows all of the Certifications that the office has issued since December 2015 through April 18, 2016. [Jay Mirpour, WRC Engineer]

Applications Received	Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project	WDID#
<a href="#">04/07/2016</a>	In review process	Ocotillo Solar LLC	Ocotillo Wells Solar	7B133038001
<a href="#">03/02/2016</a>	4/19/2016	County of Riverside	Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project	7A333158001
<a href="#">02/02/2016</a>	<a href="#">03/24/2016</a>	Union Pacific Railroad	Union Pacific Railroad - Milepost (MP) 657.99 Culvert Installation Project	7A133145001



Applications Received	Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project	WDID#
<a href="#">02/01/2016</a>	<a href="#">03/09/2016</a>	Coachella Valley Water District	CVWD Whitewater Park Concrete Slope Protection	7A333155001
<a href="#">12/17/2015</a>	4/14/2016	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Whitewater River / Colorado River Aqueduct Siphon Scour Protection Project	7A333152001
<a href="#">12/16/2015</a>	<a href="#">02/16/2016</a>	Davidson Communities	Line 29 – Tahquitz Creek Storm Drain Outlet Project	7A333154001

## E. Non-Chapter 15, Chapter 15 Unit

Unit Chief: Doug Wylie, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

**Local Agency Management Programs (LAMP) Development**—Board staff continues to work with Riverside, Imperial, and San Bernardino County Health Departments' staff to collaborate on the development of their LAMPs. Staff is preparing the separate tentative Board resolutions, approving the Imperial and Riverside County LAMPs. In addition, staff attended the Imperial County Board of Supervisors meeting in El Centro on April 26, 2016, when they considered adoption of their LAMP. If approved, staff will be recommending the Regional Water Board also approve the LAMP at its May 12, 2016 meeting. *Doug Wylie, P.E., Senior WRCE; Jose Cortez, P.E., WRCE*

**Composting General Order**—The State Water Board adopted the General Order for composting activities on August 4, 2015. Board staff is coordinating with local compost companies in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys to enroll them in the General Order, including SA Recycling in Thousand Palms. *[Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.]*

**Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II)**—On April 21, 2016, staff participated in a public meeting in our office with California Energy Commission staff, the applicant, Tribal members and representatives, and other interested parties on the proposed construction of a second natural gas power plant in Blythe. The Commission approved this project's Application for Certification on December 14, 2005. The Sonoran Energy Project is a nominally rated 520 MW combined-cycle power plant, consisting of two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators (CTGs), one 180 MW steam turbine generator, and supporting equipment. Water to operate the facility will be supplied by one additional groundwater well having the capacity to pump up to 3,000 gallons per minute. Supply and wastewater treatment systems being constructed as part of the approved Project will be duplicated from Blythe Energy Project Phase I. *[Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.]*

**Earthrise Nutritionals**—Staff has determined that the facility needs to be regulated pursuant to Title 27, Division 2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR Title 27), which prescribes waste containment through double-lined waste management units (WMUs) and comprehensive monitoring of the discharge and integrity of the containment units, among other requirements. The proposed WDRs for the facility will be tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Board in June 2016. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE; and Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.*]

**New River Monitoring at the International Boundary**—Board staff conducted the monthly monitoring of the New River at the International Boundary on April 6, 2016. Mike Gugino from the State Water Board Health & Safety Office is assisting with the cleanup of the Board's Field Storage Room, which contained an excessive amount of sampling containers and equipment that was no longer needed. As of April 22, 2016, all unnecessary sampling containers were properly disposed of. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE; Logan Raub, ES*]

**New Projects for Permitting**—Staff has received numerous Reports of Waste Discharge (ROWDs) and Engineering Reports for proposed residential, restaurant and hotel projects in unsewered areas of Palm Springs, Yucca Valley, and Desert Center. After reviewing the ROWDs, staff will prepare the appropriate permitting for the facilities, either enrollment in a General Order or preparation of an individual Waste Discharge Requirements. [*All unit staff*]

## **F. Administrative Unit**

Unit Chief: Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Manager I

**Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project**—Unit staff continues to work closely with State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Information Technology (DIT) staff to implement the audio/visual and related improvements to the Board meeting room. The new chairs for the Board were received, bids on the installation of the new TV screen and possible purchase of an additional wall screen (west side windows) were received. The cables/adapters for the individual monitors for Board members have been ordered, the adapter to connect additional microphones was received, and the ordering of a new dais is pending vendor availability. [*Mary Castañeda, AGPA*]

**Board Workshop and May 12, Board Meeting** – On April 27, 2016, the Unit completed compiling the Agenda for the May 12, 2016 Board meeting and assisted with the posting of all related Public Notices for the informational workshop held on March 3, 2016. The Unit also completed preparations for and assisted during the March 28, 2016, Coachella Valley Salt Nutrient Management Plan Board Workshop. [*Mary Castañeda, AGPA*]

**Office Visitors and Public Records Act (PRA) Requests** – During the February 18, 2016 to April 18, 2016 period:

- The office had 57 visitors. [*Terry Barnes, Office Technician*]
- The office had 32 phone calls (as of April 11). [*Terry Barnes, Office Technician*]
- The office received and responded to thirty (30) Public Records Act requests. [*Soni Wells, AGPA*]

**Records Retention Project** – Unit staff continues to sort, organize, and prepare historic files for shipping to the State Records Center in Sacramento. To date, 23 boxes of Stormwater and



Underground Storage Tank program files have been completed. Staff is currently working on various program case files. [Terry Barnes, OT]

**Business Management (Property)** – Unit staff is working with the State Water Resources Control Board, who is coordinating with the Department of General Services, to facilitate the transfer of the Board's Boston whaler boat to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Unit is also working internally with technical staff to survey out (donate) all surplus field supplies and equipment currently stored in the Field Storage Room. [Soni Wells, AGPA]

## Issues of Regional Significance

### A. New River Pollution from Mexico

**New River in Calexico**—Since late March 2016, Jose L. Angel, Interim Executive Officer, has participated in three meetings with staff from the Governor's Office, CalEPA's Executive Team, Natural Resources Agency, State Transportation Agency, and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia's office (D-Coachella) to discuss implementation of New River Improvement Project recommendations for the City of Calexico area. A draft project implementation plan for Calexico has been prepared. On April 12, 2016, Mr. Angel met with Nick Finley, City of Calexico Interim Manager, to discuss the status of the Project. On April 19, 2016, the City authorized Mr. Finley to be a co-applicant for a Proposition 1 grant to fund the design and environmental documentation for the improvement projects for the New River in the Calexico area. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

**New River in Mexicali**—The next Binational Observation Tour of the New River in Mexicali and meeting of the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) for the Mexicali/New River Sanitation Program are scheduled for April 28, 2016. Jose Figueroa-Acevedo will be representing the office at the meeting and observation tour. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.; Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, WRCE]

### B. Salton Sea

**Salton Sea Management Program**—The California Natural Resources Agency is the state lead for the Salton Sea Management Program. Board staff Jeff Geraci is the office's coordinator for Salton Sea restoration activities. He also represents the Office in the Agency's Long-range Planning Committee. Jose L. Angel is representing the office in the Agency's Science Committee,. Maria Davydova has been designated to participate on behalf of the office in the Agency's Outreach and Education Committee. Mr. Geraci participated in two Workgroup meetings (3/17/2016 and 4/13/2016). Board Staff is working across Units to update a list of Regional Water Board activities related to the Salton Sea, update the Salton Sea program web page, and to coordinate staff's Salton Sea Management Program committee assignments. [Jose L. Angel, Jeff Geraci, and Maria Davydova]

On April 11, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer attended a Salton Sea Workshop in Brawley. The Workshop was sponsored by the Imperial Irrigation District. Assistant Secretary Wilcox, Ms. Simon, and Mr. Rosentrater were the presenters at the Workshop. The workshop was well-attended (> 100 participants). Imperial County Supervisors John Renison, Ryan Kelley, and Michael Kelley attended the workshop. IID Directors Benson, Kuhn, Dessert, Hanks, and Galindo also attended the Workshop. On April 13, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer and Board

Member Ms. Powell also attended a Salton Sea Workshop in Mecca. This Workshop was also well-attended (50+ people), but most of the attendees were community members. Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Simon were the presenters at the Workshop. During both Workshops, several community members asked the State to deal with the Salton Sea as an environmental justice issue. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.].

On April 22, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer and Ms. Davydova met with Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Valerie Simon (U.S. Department of Interior Salton Sea Project Manager) to discuss strategies for community engagement and environmental justice issues. The State Water Board Office of Public Participation will be assisting Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Simon to develop and implement strategies for community engagement. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

On April 19, 2016, Mr. Geraci attended the State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop. The purpose of the Workshop was for the State Water Board to hear about the status of proposals to implement habitat creation and dust suppression projects; and to hear about assessment of transmission options to access and facilitate renewable energy development at and around the Salton Sea regarding the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0. [Jeff Geraci, ES]

The Interim Executive Officer continues to periodically meet with Salton Sea Authority Executive Director Phil Rosentrater and Assistant Secretary Wilcox since January 2016 to discuss water quality control policy for the Salton Sea, restoration and management efforts, and opportunities to partner with the Authority and assist the Agency to implement projects for restoration and management of the Sea. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

### C. Environmental Justice

Ms. Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist, has been designated as the Regional Water Board's Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator. In this capacity, she is responsible for representing the office at various EJ Task Forces and community events. The following paragraphs describe some the recent Board staff activities in this area.

**Environmental Justice**—Unit staff participated in the Imperial Valley Environmental Justice Task Force's March 17 and April 21 regularly scheduled meetings. Staff also co-chaired the March 16 and April 20 Eastern Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force regularly scheduled meetings. [Maria Davydova, ES]

**"Polanco" Mobile Home Trailer Parks (MHTPs)**—Unit staff is regularly attending meetings with the Riverside County Economic Development Agency to help address water and sewer infrastructure problems faced by Polancos. [Maria Davydova, ES]

### D. PG&E's Topock Compressor Station Cleanup

The PG&E Topock Compressor Station is south of Needles adjacent to the Colorado River. In the past, Hexavalent Chromium/CR+6 was released from the Station's cooling towers to Groundwater. To clean up the CR+6 GW plume, PG&E is using an active groundwater pump-and-treat system (a.k.a. "Intermediate Measure 3"), which has processed over 700 million gallons of groundwater and removed more than 3.5 tons of CR+6. The project is working towards implementing the Final Remedy cleanup which flushes groundwater, pushing the CR+6 Chrome plume through more oxidizing sediments, thereby converting CR+6 into the innocuous CR+3 oxidation state.

On March 16, RB7 staff participated in the Topock Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting during which PG&E's consultants presented an updated groundwater model. The updated model uses a greater number of data points (nodes) than the original and realigns boundary conditions to more closely represent the natural properties of the aquifers adjacent to the Colorado River. Additionally, the new computer generated model incorporates recently gathered groundwater data to more accurately forecast the hydraulic and chemical effects upon the CR+6 contaminant plume from operating the proposed in-situ Groundwater-flushing Final Remedy.

On April 14, the Regional Water Board received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) from PG&E to develop new WDRs, incorporating needed changes to the existing containment ponds to safely receive wastewaters generated by the Final Remedy. Additionally, Regional Water Board staff is participating in the Consultative Work Group (CWG) and the Clearinghouse Task Force (CTF), which include tribal, federal, DTSC, Arizona state, Metropolitan Water District and PG&E stakeholders along with their respective consultants and legal counsels. WDRs cannot be adopted for the remedy until outstanding CEQA issues are resolved. [*Robert E. Perdue, Supervising Engineering Geologist; Tom Vandenberg, OCC*]

## Personnel and Administration

**March 30, 2016 All-staff meeting**—There were 25+ Board staff who attended the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by the Interim Assistant Executive Officer. Items discussed during the meeting included:

- The Regional Water Board February 20, 2016, Workshop on Policy Priorities;
- The Regional Water Board March 3, 2016, Information Workshop on Salton Sea, Office performance, and Outreach and Education activities;
- The Regional Water Board March 12, 2016, meeting in Yucca Valley; and
- Status of the UC Davis Leadership effort;

The next all-staff meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2016. [*Abdi Haile, P.G.*]

**Management Team Meetings**—To carry out Greg Bourne's management and communication recommendations, the Board's management team meets on a weekly basis. Since March 12, 2016 to date, the Management Team has met on six different occasions. The Interim Executive Officer briefed the managers and supervisors on the key issues discussed during the March 12, 2016 Board meeting in Yucca Valley and the March 28, 2016 Coachella valley SNMP Workshop. At the most recent Management Team meeting (4/25/2016), managers provided an update on the status of workload commitments and performance targets for SFY 15-16. In general all Units are on track to meet workload commitments and performance targets. Two performance targets for the TMDL Unit, however, are contingent on approval from the State Water Board and USEPA (see write-up on Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa ag waiver regarding DDT and toxaphene impairments (p. 4)). [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**Leadership Training**—The State Water Board Academy contract with UC Davis is now in place. Work with Greg Bourne from UC Davis will resume in May. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**Vacancies**—The office is fully staffed (34 full-time staff) and has no vacancies. Regional Water Board staff has requested an additional staff position and hiring authority to deal with New River pollution from Mexico. [*Hilda Vazquez, SSMI*]

## Other Issues of Importance

On March 29, 2016, Vice Chair Wright and Jose L. Angel attended the Water Boards Chairs' meeting in Sacramento. The meeting focused on options and opportunities for the Water Boards to accomplish their priorities. Three main water quality areas were discussed: agricultural runoff, enforcement, and the State Water Plan. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

Ms. Jeong-Hee Lim will be attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> California Water Summit on June 1-3, 2016, in Sacramento. One of the key topics to be discussed during the Summit is groundwater sustainability. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., WRCE*]

Jose L. Angel was the key speaker at the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) competition event held at the Imperial Valley Community College on April 16, 2016. The competition included design, construction, and project presentation of model road bridges, robotic arms, and airplanes. Over 200 students from various southern California high schools and colleges participated in the event. Mr. Angel is also a graduate of Fresno State's MESA Program. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 24, 2016, at approximately 8:45 am, Board staff reported a gas smell coming from the office field storage room area. The Interim Executive Officer ordered the staff to immediately evacuate the office and stay away from the office until further notice. The staff next door at the California Department of Rehabilitation also had to evacuate the building. The City of Palm Desert (City) property manager (Tom Metz) was contacted regarding the smell. The City called the police and fire teams regarding this situation. The police and fireman arrived to search and investigate the potential gas leak. The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (Haz Mat response team) was called to further investigate the situation. They found it was leaking bottles of sulfuric acid and asked that they be removed from the building. The bottles were boxed and temporarily placed in the region's boat located in our gated parking lot. Riverside County requested the bottles be disposed of properly. Mike Walling (part of the Haz Mat response team) received approval from his supervisor to transport and store the bottles in their Moreno Valley storage for disposal at the end of April (monthly disposal). Mike also found/removed additional bottles from the field storage room due to the same smell. The office was not cleared for occupancy until 2 pm that day. The office resumed normal operations on the following day (3/25/2016). The County will invoice the office for the cost of disposal. Board staff is working with SWRCB Procurement to approve payment of the invoice.

On March 25, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer held a meeting with the Management Team to go over the incident (what worked well and what needs improvement). During the meeting, he also directed the supervisors to complete the following tasks as a matter of priority:

1. Prepare an inventory of the items in the field storage room, and sort the items into:
  - a. Things needed for our sampling and surveillance activities (i.e., things needed to do our job),
  - b. Things needed to be disposed of (as in trash, through an appropriate contractor if they are hazardous, or just discarded); and
  - c. Things needed to be surveyed out.

2. Assist Ms. Vasquez and her staff to properly dispose of unneeded/undesired equipment/materials.
3. Prepare a yearly written roster/schedule identifying a Senior Supervisor who will be responsible for making sure the storage room is order and ensuring rank-and-file staff gets approval from the Senior before bringing new materials and equipment (e.g., sampling bottles, sampling equipment, chemicals, etc.) into the room. The roster needs also to identify the rank-and-file staff who will be assisting the Senior to keep the room organized; and
4. Talk to their staff about how staff needs to manage the room and not to bring contaminated equipment into the room or to bring any other chemicals or sampling supplies without the express written consent of the Senior in charge of the room (see Item 2, above).

Staff has worked closely with Mike Gugino, State Water Board Industrial Hygienist, to take care of Items 1 through 4. All items have been accomplished. Staff has provided to the City of Palm Desert a list of chemicals and other items that are stored in that room.

## Regional Water Board Action Items

The following table shows the status of requests made by Regional Water Board Members.

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
Monitors/video screens for the back of Board Meeting Room	Board Members	11/19/2015	Progress is ongoing. Please see write up on Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project (p. 8) [Hilda Vasquez, Mary Castaneda]
Topock Tour and Cleanup Project Update	Board Members	11/19/2015	It had been scheduled for November 10, 2016. At the March 2016 Board meeting, the Board directed staff to reschedule it to another date TBD [Robert Perdue]
Board Workshops for Informational Items	Board Members	1/14/2016	Ongoing; Three workshops have been held to date (2/20, 3/3, and 3/28/2016), including a policy prioritization workshop.  The next Coachella Valley SNMP Board Workshop has been scheduled for 6/1/2016 at the Regional Water Board office.

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
Policy Prioritization Board Workshop	Board Members	1/14/2016	Was conducted on 2/20/2016. A report briefing the Board on what is being done on its priorities and a workplan with additional actions to address the priorities is being prepared
Board member would like to accompany staff on an inspection of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to see what the inspection entails	Board Member Crites	2/20/2016	Arrangements have been made for a typical Wastewater Treatment Plant inspection in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys for May 2016. Field Awareness Training for Board members is also now available and can be taken by Board members who wish to participate in field activities.
Triennial Review progress updates	Board Members	9/17/2015	Ongoing. Updates included in the Interim EO Report (please see p. 2 and p.9)
Imperial Valley Wetlands Tour	Vice Chair Wright	2/20/2016	Arrangements have been made with Desert Wildlife Unlimited for a May 12, 2016 tour for Board members, following the Board meeting in Brawley.
Proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements for Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa	Chair Way and Board member Ms. Powell	3/12/2016	Staff is making arrangements to have a workshop on the proposed General WDRs before the June Board meeting.